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Borough of Malmesbury



REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1945



Public Health Officers of the Authority :

(a) Medical Officer of Health—

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H., from
October to December, 1945.

R. M. MOORE, M.B., from January to September, 1945.

(b) Sanitary Inspector—

R. S. PIERCE, C.S.I.B., Meat and other Foods Inspectors
Certificate, R.S.I.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1945. This report is based on Ministry of Health Circular 28/46 dated 11th February, 1946, and is therefore curtailed.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	.....	.....	202
Population (1945)	.....	.....	2564
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945 according to Rate Book)			800
Rateable Value	.....	.....	£12352
Sum represented by penny rate	.....	.....	£49-13-1

Vital Statistics for 1945.

		Total	M	F	Rate	Cf. E.&W.
Live Births	.....	47	31	16		
Legitimate	.....	40	28	12		
Illegitimate	.....	7	3	4		
Birth Rate (per 1000 population)					18.4	16.1
Still-Births	.....	1	0	1		
Rate (per 1000 total births)	.....				21.3	

	Total	M	F	Rate	Cf. E.&W.
Deaths	38	22	16		
Death Rate (per 1000 population)				14.8	11.4
Deaths from Puerperal Causes					
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0		
Other Puerperal Causes	0	0	0		
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year					
All Infants per 1000 live births.....				21.3	
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	1	1	0	25.0	
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	0	0	0		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9	4	5		
„ Measles (all ages)	0	0	0		
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	0	0		
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	0	0		
„ Influenza	0	0	0		
„ Respiratory Diseases (21, 22, 23)	3				
„ Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels (18, 19, 20)	15				

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring in the Borough during the year 1945.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	} Nil	} Nil
Diphtheria		
Whooping Cough		
Measles		
Poliomyelitis		
Typhoid Fever		
Pneumonia		
Dysentery		
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis		
Erysipelas		
Puerperal Pyrexia		
Ophthalmia neonatorum		

Deaths from all causes.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and parat. fevers	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0	0
Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	0	1	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	0	2
Cancer of breast	0	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	2	2	4
Diabetes	0	1	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	1	0	1
Heart dis.	8	5	13
Other dis. of circ. system	1	0	1
Bronchitis	2	0	2
Other resp. dis.	1	0	1
Nephritis	0	1	1
Suicide	2	0	2
Other violent causes	0	1	1
All other causes	3	3	6
	22	16	38

Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
15								
25								
35								
45								
55								
65								
and upwards								
Totals								

Water Supplies.

Water is at present supplied to the whole of the Borough and a bulk supply is also given to the Malmesbury Rural District Council.

There are two sources: Holloway, from surface springs; and Park Road, from a deep borehole.

Analyses during the year 1945 gave the following results:—

* * * *

REPORT on the Analysis of a Sample of Water received on 9/10/45 at 11.30 from Holloway, Malmesbury Borough Council water supply.

Physical Characters: Excellent.

CHEMICAL :	p.H.	Parts per 100000
Reaction—Alkaline	7.1	
Saline and Free Ammonia	Nil
Organic (or “albuminoid”) ammonia	0.002
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 2 hours at 27°C	0.014
Chlorides	2.3
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.5
Total Hardness	45.0
(a) Temporary	8.0
(b) Permanent	37.0
Poisonous Metals	Nil
Nitrites	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL :

Total Colonies growing at 37°C in 48 hours	5 per	1 cc of water
Number of Coli-Aerogenes or- ganisms	25 per	100 cc of water at 37°C
Number of Faecal types of B. Coli	Nil per	100 cc of water at 44°C

OPINION :

Chemical analysis shows no evidences of pollution. The water is alkaline and so will not have metal solvent properties.

Bacteriological examination shows coliforms of non-faecal type to be present in appreciable and somewhat undue numbers. Typical faecal coliforms are absent.

Date: 11/10/45.

REPORT on the Analysis of a Sample of Water received on 9/10/45 at 11.30 from Park Road, Malmesbury Borough Council water supply.

Physical Characters : Excellent.

CHEMICAL :			Parts per 100000
Reaction—Alkaline	.....	p.H.	7.3
Saline and Free Ammonia	.....	.....	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	.....	.....	0.001
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 2 hours at 27°C	.....	.....	0.017
Chlorides	.....	.....	1.9
Nitrogen as nitrates	.....	.....	0.75
Total Hardness	.....	.....	43.0
(a) Temporary	.....	.....	8.0
(b) Permanent	.....	.....	35.0
Poisonous Metals	.....	.....	Nil
Nitrites	.....	.....	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment	.....	.....	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL :

Total Colonies growing at 37°C in 48 hours	.....	.....	Nil per 1 cc of water
Number of Coli-Aerogenes or- ganisms	.....	.....	Nil per 100 cc of water
Number of Faecal types of B. Coli	.....	.....	Nil per 100 cc of water

OPINION :

Chemical analysis shows no evidences of pollution. The water is alkaline and so will not have metal solvent properties.

Bacteriological examination shows complete absence of organisms in 100 cc water.

Date : 11/10/45.

* * * *

Chlorination plants are available at both Holloway and Park Road Sources but have not been in regular use. Chlorination is particularly needed for the Holloway source as inspection of the surface springs has shown that, due to their close proximity to the river, there is a distinct possibility that pollution will occur during times of flood. Further it is doubtful whether the chlorination plant at Holloway is adequate. It is understood that the Borough of Malmesbury is contemplating an improvement in the water supply to the Borough and that the Consulting Engineer will be asked to report thereon.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The whole of the Borough is served by an obsolete system of sewers, which discharge, through small catchpits, into the river. There are no works for the treatment and disposal of sewage. Pollution of the River Avon occurs and the installation of sewage disposal works and new sewers is necessary.

Collection and Disposal of Household Refuse.

During the year the Council terminated its contract with a private haulier for the collection of house refuse and entered into an agreement with the Malmesbury Rural District Council for a bi-weekly collection by that Authority. Collection proceeded satisfactorily, the refuse being deposited in an old quarry at Sunset Hill in the rural district. Trouble was experienced due to the large amount of paper and kitchen and vegetable waste in the refuse, with a consequent encouragement of rats and flies. Steps are being taken to overcome this nuisance.

Many householders continue to collect refuse in old boxes, baths and other unsuitable receptacles and it is recommended that action be taken to secure the provision of covered sanitary bins.

Food.

(a) MILK.

Number of producers in the area	.....	1
Number of retailers in the area	.....	4

There are no pasteurisation plants and no producers of T.T. or accredited milk in the Borough.

(b) BAKEHOUSES.

The one bakehouse in the Borough is satisfactory.

The bulk of the bread distributed is baked outside the town and delivered here.

(c) MEAT.

There is no slaughtering in the Borough as all meat is delivered from the Ministry of Food central slaughterhouse at Chippenham.

Protection of the meat and personnel was not satisfactory, but representations have resulted in an improvement.

There are five butchers' shops in the town.

Meat condemned :—

Pork	.....	176 lbs.
Beef	.....	653 „
Offal	.....	25 „
Corned Beef		78 „

(d) FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are two fried fish shops in the town. One has not been satisfactorily maintained, but, since a change of management, conditions have shown a great improvement. The other shop has been well maintained.

School Children.

In addition to the usual re-inspection, 243 children in the Routine Age-groups were examined during the year under review. Of these, 66% were found to be of normal nutrition and 14% were excellent. 18% were found to be slightly sub-normal and 2% badly under-nourished. These figures are favourable, but it has been noted that many children show signs of fatigue. This is particularly noticeable amongst boys who, in some cases, are pale and have developed a poor posture. It is considered that, especially during the summer, many of these children do not obtain sufficient rest. Also in some cases these boys are employed either before or after school in such occupations as delivering newspapers, groceries, etc. The school curriculum with its many activities is more than sufficient for a growing child and employment either before or after school is not considered advisable for any child, however well nourished.

Closure of Schools during 1945.

There were no school closures during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Up to the end of the year the following numbers of children have been successfully immunised :

Ages 1-4	.....	121 (53.5%)	Ages 5-14	.....	352 (93.4%)
		Total	.....	473	(77.9%)

The incidence of diphtheria is negligible.